

## **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**



Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a union territory of India lies in the Bay of Bengal and are a large group of nearly 600 islands. The coastline of the Islands stretches for about 100 Kms. The Islands are covered with dense forests all around. Of the total land area 92% of the land is covered with rain forests.

Of nearly 600 islands, only 9 are open to foreign tourists and all of these are in the Andamans. Andaman and Nicobar Islands lie close to the Arakanmayo mountain range of Burma that lies to the sides of Sumatra of Indonesia.

Not only the beauty of nature and the various enticing features but also the peace loving people have made the Andaman and Nicobar Islands a tourist spot for visitors overseas. We can find high mountains, lush green forests, wide roads, new buildings and long coastline which makes it beautiful.

Non-Indians need a Restricted Area Permit to visit the islands, but these are now issued on arrival at the Port Blair airport. Indian nationals do not require a permit to visit the Andamans. However, permits are required to visit Nicobar Islands and other tribal areas.

For now the only way to reach the Andamans by air is from the Indian mainland to Port Blair. Flights can fill up in peak season and immigration doesn't look kindly on people arriving without confirmed flights back, so book a return ticket and change the flight date if you decide to hang around longer.

### **Pawan Hans Services**

Pawan Hans provides helicopter support services to Andaman & Nicobar Islands for Inter-Island transportation and also for connecting Inaccessible Areas. The company has allocated four Dauphin N helicopters at Port Blair for the services to the island.